In case the weather conditions remain favourable during the coming years, the production of oilseeds is likely to increase from the present level which will reduce import of edible oils.

Formulating National Livestock Policy

2079. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarmed at the decline in fund allocation for animal husbandry and fishery, the Centre and the States have favoured quick formulation of a National Livestock Policy to step up investment, check cheap imports and protect farmers' interests under WTO regime;

(b) if so, whether the State Ministers' Conference on animal husbandry was held in February, 2003;

(c) if so what were the main points discussed; and

(d) what were the decisions taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Government of India organized a State Ministers' Conference on Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries on 3rd February, 2003. The Conference *inter alia* focused on enhancing the investment in the animal husbandry sector, genetic improvement of livestock, extension of Animal Health Services, regulation of inter-State transportation of diseased animals, provision of milk and milk products under the mid-day meal programme, promotion of in-land water aquaculture and deep sea fishing. The Conference also *inter alia* discussed the Draft National Livestock Policy and recommended the need for improving the quality of livestock and livestock products to world standards.

Drought Relief in Rajasthan Through NGOs

2080. SHRI AIMADUDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of voluntary organizations and other NGOs from foreign countries had come to Rajasthan recently for the distribution of drought relief to BPL families;

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the names of those foreign voluntary organizations and NGOs who had visited Rajasthan alongwith the places where they had visited and the nature of drought relief that had been distributed; and

(c) how far such drought relief had helped to redress the problems of the drought affected people of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) According to the information received from the Government of Rajasthan, Shri L.N. Mittal, NRI based in London had helped in organizing three cattle camps and supply of drinking water in 10 drought affected villages in Churu district, involving an expenditure of Rs. 6.13 lakhs and Supreme Master Ching Hert International Association of Taiwan had helped 3500 families in Jaisalmer district by distributing food items costing Rs. 11 lakhs. The State Government have further informed that, looking at requirement of assistance due to severity of drought, the help was negligible.

Depletion of Livestock

†2081. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that livestock in the country is depleting continuously;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to formulate a policy or enact a stringent law in order to protect livestock;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The population of livestock is continuously increasing over the years. The data for livestock census since 1951 are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.